



St Andrew's School Chesterton closure 1981

Cambridge SCHOOLS Chronicle by Mike Petty  
c.36.5 - schools

1890

Perse Boys new school opposite Roman Catholic Church, founded 1617 [11.1]

1893

Church Industrial School Victoria Road closed [3.1]

1894

Ross Street Boys opened [2.21]

1895

Union Road Roman Catholic School enlarged [3.6]

1896

Park Street Higher Grade opened [3.4]

1897

St John's Church Infants opened [3.14]

1898

St Mary's Convent started when convent at York decided sent nuns to Cambridge to teach. [12.3,1.24]

1898

St Augustine Church School opened [3.12]

1899

East Road School opened, St Georges school (started as Barnwell 1835; taken by military Nov 1914 to May 1915) [1.1, 12.6]

1899 07 08

It is a piece of good fortune for suburban Cambridge that Homerton New College have provided what is bound to be a first-rate elementary school for New Cherryhinton. The Morley Memorial School, at which teachers will be taught to teach, should be a model school and the most approved methods of education will be pursued in it. The memorial stone was laid by a son of Mr Samuel Morley whose life unobtrusively devoted to the highest interests of his fellow men is one that deserves to be held in deepest honour 1899 07 08 [1.10]

1899 11 04

Morley school opened, 1899 11 04 p3

Named after Samuel Morley head of hosier & knit-ware firm who used wealth to promote philanthropic work & responsible for Cambridge YMCA; was practising school for Homerton college, transferred council 1905

## **1900**

1900

Cambridge British School Fitzroy Street rebuilt in Brunswick Terrace for 700 children [3.5]

1900

Cambridge & County School opened 1900 specialising in agriculture – history – 90 07 05b

1900 10 29

The action taken by the Technical Education Committee in opening technical day schools in Cambridge has brought about a situation which is of the highest interest to the future of education in the town. To put the matter plainly the Governors of the Perse School conceive that the new schools, at which the fees are much lower, threaten their prosperity, if not their very existence. They say that boys are likely to leave the Perse – indeed it is an open secret that some have already left. There is no doubt that the Perse is no longer what it once was – a school for the children of persons of small incomes. Fees of up to £20 a year must depend entirely upon the well-to-do CDN 1900 10 29

1901 01 17

The Cambridge British Schools removed to handsome and commodious premises in Auckland Road abutting on Midsummer Common – an exceeding pleasant site where there is plenty of light and fresh air. The common will in summer afford an excellent playground for the boys and a playground for the girls and infants is laid out within the confines of the school premises. Accommodation is provided for 706 scholars and the school is already all but full. Hitherto the scholars have been educated at schools in Fitzroy Street but these buildings have become antiquated 01 01 17

1901 02 08

New Street school opening, CDN 1901 02 08 p3

1901 05 03

The new British Schools in Auckland Road, Cambridge were formally opened. The three departments – boys, girls and infants – are handsomely accommodated. Mr Alexander Peckover said education was different now from what it was when he was a lad. Then it was a common thing for a mistress of the house to have to make up the washing list – (laughter) – because the housemaid could not do so.

He was a banker and a good many of their clients could not even sign their own names CDN 1901 05 03

1901 12 21

An Old Perseans Society was formed at a well-attended meeting held in the School Hall. Among the objects of the new organisation are united support of the school in all matters concerning its honour and welfare whenever occasion demands, and the compilation of a register of Old Perseans. It was a particularly suitable time for the formation of such a society at the close of a long connection with the school of the late Headmaster who struggled long against adverse circumstances, and at the arrival of a new Headmaster, Mr W.H.D. Rouse 01 12 21

1902

Education Act makes Borough the Education Authority for primary schools & subject to the jurisdiction of County Council for Higher Education [5.6]

1903

Wellington Street, St Augustine's & St John's Church Schools closed [2.16]

1903

Boys High School Hills Road opened [4.13]

1903

Passive Resistance movement starts - Citizens League for Cambridge founded, conference held. Members refuse to pay portion of their rate which used for schools & several have their property auctioned off by court to raise the money [5.5, 5.8]

1903 06 05

The policy of passive resistance to the Education Act by the non-payment of the education rate is now being widely adopted in Cambridge. A marked increase in the number of those refusing to pay has taken place since the manifesto by Cambridge Nonconformist ministers. Before its issue local Nonconformists who had merely pledged themselves to passive resistance were to be numbered by dozens. Now at least 200 have withheld that part of the rate they consider would be apportioned for education purposes 03 06 05

1903 09 03

Cambridge burgesses who for conscientious reasons refuse to pay the Education Rate appeared in court. Large crowds packed the entrance as cheering in the street heralded the approach of the passive resisters. The decorum of the court broke down and applause gave way to lusty cheering which the police made no effort to subdue. George Shippey said public money should not be devoted to denominational teaching. Benjamin Liles of Fitzroy Street said the Education Act violates the British Constitution; hitherto he had an opportunity of taking part in the election of the persons who made the rate, now he would have no voice and that was why he refused to pay. 03 09 03

1903 09 04

Goods seized from Passive Resisters for the non-payment of the education rate were auctioned at Cambridge Corn Exchange. Due precautions were taken to prevent unseemly disturbances. The auctioneer was enclosed in what resembled a laager, composed of corn merchants' desks and a large number of constables kept a vigilant watch on the crowd who clambered upon desks to obtain a clearer view of what was going to happen. No sooner had the auctioneer started than his words were drowned in a perfect storm of hooting and hissing. 03 09 04

1903 09 14

The Cambridge & County School for Boys, which during the past four years has been very insufficiently accommodated at St Columba's Hall, reached an important stage in its career. The builders were displaced by the boys at the new school house that has been erected upon Hills Road

and henceforth the scholars will participate in the manifold advantages that the most approved educational equipment, utilised amidst ideal surroundings, can supply. Few buildings can possess such a curious means of access. The boys are to make their entrances by means of a slope leading into the basement where they can leave their bicycles, hats and coats before climbing a broad staircase to the ground floor. 03 09 14

1903 09 15

About 400 people were present at a meeting to support Cambridge council's decision to erect a boys' school in Romsey Town to accommodate not less than 500. If ever a district needed a school it was that one. The council had voted in favour by 23 votes to nine but four gentlemen had appealed against it. What larger majority did they want? Romsey required a school in which their boys could secure a proper education without going into the town. 03 09 215

1903 10 26

The Cambridge and County School for Boys was formally opened bridging that gulf from primary to higher education which has been such a blot on our new national system; now a secondary education is placed within reach of that very wide class previously content with elementary education only. The progress of the school has been phenomenal; on the opening day three years ago 41 boys presented themselves; each term saw an increase and now there are no fewer than 210 scholars. 03 10 26

1904

Leys School new chapel & swimming baths opened [1.3]

1905

Kings Street Higher Grade School closed [2.6]

1905

Brunswick Terrace becomes first Council School in Borough [3.5]

1905 08 31

The new Romsey Town School is almost in a state of completion. The registration of intending scholars has been taking place while the painters are putting the last coats of varnish upon the interior woodwork. All that remains to be done consists of the arrangement of the furniture. There are separate entrances for boys and girls and the asphalted playground is divided by a wall to separate them during play hours. Trees have been retained providing a charming environment which will be made more delightful when the flowerbeds have been filled. 05 08 31 a/aa [1.21,3.18]

1905 09 22

The vicar of St Philip's Church Cambridge recalled he had opposed a scheme for abolishing the boys', girls' and infants' Church Schools in Ross Street. There would now be a new mixed school where nonconformist children would relieve religious instruction – but not from him. If parents cared for Church instruction they should fight to keep Ross Street schools open and support the new master, Mr Meakin. 05 09 22a & b

1906 03 15

A difference of opinion has arisen between parents of children and the Managers of the Morley Memorial Schools over the practice of opening afternoon school at 1.45 instead of two o'clock. One mothers say it is highly inconvenient: "My husband comes home to dinner at ten minutes past one; we sit down to eat five minutes later and my children have to 'bolt' their dinner and rush straight off to be at school by twenty to two. I'm sure it does them no good." But the managers say parents had asked for the change. 06 03 15 & 15a

1906 05 26

Two large meetings of Cambridge church people passed resolutions strongly condemning the Government's Education Bill. The Bishop of Ely said the dying of church schools would only be a

matter of time. Religion was the only part of education worth having, the great question was how it would be taught. The Bill denied parents the liberty to have their children educated in the faith which they themselves held. 06 05 26d e

1906 07 05

Girls County School should be erected to be convenient for girls coming by train – Mill Road; site problem 06 07 05a 06 07 05s

1906 07 12

Site of proposed Higher Grade School near Parkside 06 07 12d

1906 10 25

Morley Memorial Schools have been extended by a couple of wings. One contains three classrooms and the other has rooms fitted up for cooking and carpentry. Around the infants' classroom have been placed drawing slates – or rather ground glass backed with a dark preparation – at a suitable height for children and the corners of walls are rounded off to allowing no dirt to collect. The whole block is eminently convenient and suitable to the necessities of the infant life – a point too often lost sight of in the construction of schools. 06 10 25d

1906 12 01

The fact that St Matthews's Infant School in Sturton Street was offered for sale by auction may be misconstrued, especially as some say it would be suitable for a club or warehouse. But the question of discontinuing instruction there has never been mooted. It was erected as a speculation by the late Mr B. Clifton and let to the Vicar. Now the executor wishes to realise the property. It is purely a business transaction and devoid of any relation to the education question and its local consequences. 06 12 01a

1906 12 12

The condition of Eden Street Higher Grade School gave cause for concern. The small infants' room was encumbered with a huge gallery and another received practically no light. It had no playground and there could be few places in which so many children were crowded together on such a small site. Only because the staff was very efficient and the children very teachable did instruction meet with the success to which reports testified. 06 12 12 & a

1908

Girls High School Collier Road opened [4.13]

1908 04 04

St Luke's school memorial to Berridge – 08 04 04b

1908 05 14

Melbourn Place new schools plans – 08 05 14 & a & b

1908 07 18

Milton Road Council School built to stop 360 boys & girls crossing river to St Luke's & St Andrews, which full; the first public elementary school created by County Education Authority [4.3,4.14,4.15,10.5]

1908 08 21

The magnificent new schools at Milton Road, Chesterton have been equipped with every facility for instruction. Instead of sitting in cramped positions at unsuitable desks the tiny tots will be accommodated with seats to suit their various sizes and their lessons based on the Froebel principle, combining amusement with instruction. They mark a distinct advancement on elementary educational methods and the County Council is to be congratulated. CWN 08 08 21 p4

1908 09 04

See the children assemble in the great hall at the new Milton Road school. From the classrooms come files of boys and girls, not in perfect military style but in very fair order awaiting an instruction that playtime has arrived. The word given, the boys swing out of one door, the girls out at another and the paved playgrounds, separated by an iron partition, resound with merriment. Boys learn woodwork under Mr Holt and the girls commence cookery instruction under Mrs Walker of Cheveley. CWN 08 09 04 p5

1908 12 25

Allegations that a feud exists between the boys attending Milton Road and St Luke's schools is not entirely borne out by investigation. When the Milton Road School was opened a number of boys attending St Luke's migrated. Installed in the new school they 'put on side' which was too much for their late friends and some small battles ensued. This reached the ears of the authorities and they were punished. Since then rival feelings exist only in the breasts of two or three lads and possibly a snow storm will enable both sides to wipe out all accounts. CWN 08 12 25

1909

Richmond Road School opened [4.2]

1909 08 06

Commenting on plans for the Melbourn Place Schools the Board of Education thought whole building appeared to be designed on too lavish a scale. On one hand they kept an infants' department, though cutting it down to absurdly small dimensions, and built no laboratories. On the other hand they greatly exceeded the normal for the central hall. The size might be reduced and the external ornament omitted. But this was more than an ordinary elementary school and to get the facilities required money must be spent CWN 09 08 06

1909 08 27

We deeply regret to record the death of John Austin Catchpole. Few men have struggled more bravely under physical infirmity. Born in Cambridge 65 years ago he showed promise of developing into a healthy boy when the carelessness of a servant girl crippled him for life. Left in her charge, he was seated upon wet grass, illness ensued and his lower limbs became permanently paralysed. Unable to go to school he was tutored at home and decided to become a schoolteacher. He started the Auckland School private school which at one time had 60 boys upon the register CWN 09 08 27

1909 09 17

The staff and scholars of the Cambridge and County School for Girls have left the unpretentious and inconvenient building in East Road and are safely ensconced in a brand new school built on the most scientific lines and equipped with everything the modern educational establishment requires. It is approached by a drive from Collier Road and surrounded by ample grounds CWN 09 09 17

1909 10 20

The magnificent new home of the Cambridge and County School for Girls is compact and central, calm and commodious and includes laboratories for chemistry and domestic science together with a hothouse for the study of botany. Its object is to provide a sound practical middle class education at a moderate fee. The adjacent School of Arts and Crafts has rooms for life-painting, modelling and geometrical drawing. They were opened by the American ambassador CWN 09 10 22

**1910**

1911 04 07

Dr W.H. Rose, headmaster of the Perse Grammar School was summoned for caning a pupil. The lad lived at Landbeach and cycled into Cambridge every day, a distance of about five miles. Ash Wednesday was a half-holiday but boys were required to attend in the afternoon. The lad had got ready but the day was very rough with a high wind. There was no train service and his mother, considering the weather, told him not to go and she would send a note next morning. But next day he

had been caned and sent to detention for two hours. Dr Rouse said he did not know there was a valid excuse and expressed regret the boy was punished. 11 04 07 & a

1911 08 11

Girls at Eden Street school Cambridge should be taught domestic subjects and home making such as bed-making, plumbing and white-washing. Ald Campkin thought children ought to learn how to make beds at home and in poorer districts people had very little to cook. Ignorance of sanitation was appalling and when laundry classes were first started there had been considerable opposition, but they had been a success. However councillors objected to spending more for a trained teacher: this could be done by the present staff 11 08 11k

1911 09 15

A number of Cambridge schoolboys 'came out' on strike, some because they had a half-holiday and others because they hadn't. Some say there were several hundred boys and girls carrying 'On Strike' banners and they had chalked the same on the doors of their schools. They held a mass meeting on Christ's Pieces then marched down Emmanuel Street where they came into contact with the police (one constable). The demonstration then collapsed. But teachers say there was no strike. They were not schoolboys but hooligans; they made a disturbance outside the school but the flashing eye of the schoolmaster made them retreat 11 09 15c

1911 12 29

Melbourne Place school tenders – 11 12 29a

1912

Enlargement of the Borough brings three extra schools into Cambridge [4.1]

1912 03 01

The merry sound of children's voices and laughter brought many of the residents in Melbourne Place to their doors. A host of happy schoolboys were sporting on the greensward where the old tennis courts used to be and now forms the site of the new higher grade schools, just about to be erected. A file of girls was entering from the Eden Street end while a troop of Boy Schools was drawn up, colours fluttering in the breeze near a piece of ground marked out with surveyors measuring staves. They had come to see the Head Master and Head Mistress turn the first sods on the spot where the new schools are to be built. 12 03 01a

1912 03 29

Work on the new schools in Melbourne Place is practically at a standstill owing to the strike and 50 men are idle. The contractors cannot get delivery of the facing bricks they require. "We have several thousand blue bricks on the rail somewhere between Staffordshire and Cambridge" said Mr C. Kidman. "We are promised red bricks a month after the brickmakers receive coal but they cannot get any". An interesting little machine with massive steam-powered steel jaws was champing up bricks from the curious little row of cottages which had no back premises and no back windows. Five trees had been cut down to provide log for fuel for the engine. 12 03 29f

1912 07 26

The last speech day of the Higher Girls School in Eden Street was held; soon staff and scholars will be at work in the magnificent new buildings in Melbourn-Place. History of school reviewed. 12 07 26 i & j

1913

Eden Street & Paradise Street Higher Grade Schools closed [3.2, 3.3]

1913 02 21

The Trustees of the 'Hope' Classroom in Paradise Street have offered to present it to the Education Committee for educational purposes. The Trustees of Eden Street Higher Grade School also offered

their site and building for educational purposes on payment of £200 to be invested in maintaining the St Andrew the Less Parish Institute in Fitzroy Street. The school had been closed down because the buildings were too bad and a new one built in Melbourn Place but could be used for instruction in domestic subjects 13 02 21 p7 CIP

1913 03 07

Melbourne Place Higher Grade School opened [4.4] 13 03 07 p9 CIP

1913 03 14

Newnham Croft proposed school – debate – 13 03 14

1913 05 23

Catherine Street Schools to open 13 05 23 p7 CIP

1913 05 30

St Philips Schools dedicated 13 05 30 p7 CIP

1913 07 11

Newnham Croft school debate 13 07 11 CIP

1913 10 24

Leys School extension foundation stone 13 10 24 p10 CIP

1913 10 24

Newnham Croft school debate 13 10 24 CIP

1913 11 07

The Perse School was in crisis, they had acquired Pendene House to expand their boarders but to pay for it they had to sell Fratinghall Farm at a heavy loss on the original value of the property due to the depression in agriculture. In 1882 it was worth at least £10,000 but they had received just £4,600. To get any rent at all they'd had to build new cottages and make improvements, all of which money was lost. But next year marked the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their foundation and they were launching an Endowment Fund, the Speech Day audience heard. 13 11 07 p9 CIP

1913 12 12

At the North Terrace School prize giving the Master of Downing said education had very much improved of later years. He remembered when his sisters were drilled at their French grammar like so many soldiers and there was 'thimble pie' in reserve. Education nowadays was very much less formal and more happy. Two things he was pleased to see at Miss Keen's school were Swedish drill and swimming. The girls should educate themselves, train their hands in embroidery and sewing and learn to darn their own socks. They should keep their tempers and be kind to everyone. The school was run purely by Miss Keen and run by the side of schools which were subsidised 13 12 12 p05 CIP

1913 12 12

Miss Street was appointed the first headmistress of the Perse when the school opened in January 1881 and retired in July 1909. She was signally successful: the numbers rising from 16 to 206. That was before the founding of the Girls' County School and then there was a slight decrease 13 12 12 p5 CIP

1914

Passive Resisters day Guildhall [5.11]

1914 04 24

King's Visit - Six thousand schoolchildren will next Thursday line the streets. Although visit is to the Leys School. King will proceed to the school via Newmarket Road, East Road, Lensfield Road and Trumpington Road. Upon arrival will be received by a guard of honour and met by headmaster and



members of the governing body. Will view memorial South African War, inspect the gymnasium, swimming baths, science buildings, etc 14 04 24 CIPof 14 05 01 [1.11] 14 05 01e f g h

1914

Melbourn Place School taken over as billets for troops, pupils go to Emmanuel College & St Andrew's Street lecture hall [6.8]

1914 07 31

Teachers' Scale Criticised. A meeting to consider the new scale of salaries for the County. Mr. H. G. Powell, who spoke on "The Salaries Movement in Cambridgeshire", said the increase in teachers' salaries had been anticipated for a long while. Teachers in Cambridge could not congratulate themselves on the generosity of their salaries. Class teachers were not paid well enough to enable them to fulfil their proper duties. It was impossible to obtain a man's highest standard for a paltry £120 a year, and it was unfair to pay fully qualified teachers that amount (Applause). A member of the Education Committee has expressed the opinion that it was impossible for a secondary school teacher (then grammar school) to live decently on £160 to £170 a year 14 07 31 CIPof

1914 10 16

Higher Grade Pupils based elsewhere as soldiers have taken over school 14 10 16

1915

Newnham Croft School opened [4.6]

1915 04 02

"Active Humbugs". Three passive resistors who still persist in their refusal to pay the educational portion of the Poor Rate, appeared at the Cambridge Borough Police Court on Wednesday summoned for the non-payment of the same, and received little sympathy from the Bench. The appearance of their names among the rate defaulters was the subject of strong magisterial comment, the Mayor (Mr. W. L. Raynes) on one occasion remarking: "Passive resistors are better described as 'active humbugs'" 15 04 02 CIPof

1915 04 23

Troops occupation of County Girls School and others – to pay rent, taxes, dilapidations 15 04 23 p6

1915 06 11

Chedworth Street school finished but as would probably be required for military use the range, cooker and boiler should be postponed for time being 15 06 11 p6

1915 07 02

County Girls School – military have now left, need cleaning before school returns 15 07 02 p7

1915 09 24

Chedworth Street School to be named Newnham Croft 15 09 24

1915 12 17

Hope class at Paradise Street School for children who were very backward; not easy to get teachers but reject increase in Mrs Fry's salary 15 12 17 CIP

1916 06

Cambridge Open Air School opens in cottage, Vinery Rd, for children excluded on medical grounds from attending school [Cam p120, 6.9,11.2]

1916 12 06

The Rev. C. J. N. Child, Headmaster of the Cambridge and County School for Boys, has accepted the living of Moulton. The resignation will be a distinct loss to the cause of education. No man was more

fitted for the headship of this important school and his departure will be regretted. He was appointed to the headmastership in 1900. He was Chaplain of Emmanuel College from 1898-1903 and curate of St. Botolph's, Cambridge, from 1897 until 1904. He was educated at Christ's College, Cambridge and was Winchester prizeman in 1898 16 12 06 CIPof

1918 02 06

Communal Dinners - midday meals at the East Road schools started on January 14, are supplied by the Fitzroy Street communal kitchen, and each child pays a small sum per week for five dinners. When the school was first started there were only 23 children who availed themselves of the opportunity but now the number has increased to about 40. The dinner is served in a room which was formerly the baby room of the old school, but which for a number of years has been used as a storeroom. The room has been cleaned, distempered and decorated, and presents quite a cheery appearance 18 02 06 CIPof

1918 06 26

Over 900 with the Colours. Since August, 1914, up to the present time over 900 Old Leysians had joined the Colours, of whom, 120 had given their lives. Since the last Speech Day five more D.S.O.s and 23 more M.C.s had been won, making their total up to 10 D.S.O.'s and 39 M.C.'s. In addition to those they had two C.M.G.s to their credit 18 06 26 CIPof

1919 06 04

New Head of The Leys, — The new headmaster of The Leys School, the Rev. Harry Bisseker, who is to succeed the Rev. Dr Barber when the September Term opens, has been a frequent visitor to The Leys of recent years, and has annually preached in the school chapel. He was Chaplain and Assistant Master at The Leys from 1901 to 1904 19 06 04 CIPof

1919 10 22

Perse school investigation into financial position – report of committee – 19 10 22a

1919 11 12

Princes at dinner. The Old Persian tercentenary dinner was held in the Perse School Hall on Friday evening, the Bishop of Woolwich presiding. He was supported by Prince Albert, Prince Henry and others. The toast of "The King" having been honoured, the Bishop of Woolwich submitted "The Royal Family." Prince Albert, replying, said: "My brother and I feel at present like two simple minnows among a number of Tritons in a sea of knowledge." He congratulated the school on the prominent position it had taken in the pioneer work of modern education, "due, in so large a measure, to the brilliant and energetic efforts of Dr Rouse (headmaster) and his colleagues". "Your war record," he went on is one you may well be proud of. Your losses have been I fear heavy, and with you I mourn the brave men from your school who have given their lives for country and Empire 19 11 12 CIPof

## **1920**

1922

Sturton Street School closed [2.14]

1922 09 06

A special meeting of the Cambridge Education Committee was held at Brunswick School on the report of the Borough Surveyor. He said that the rooms at the north end of the building were not safe for occupation and would have to be pulled down. He could not be responsible for the safety of the children if that portion of the school were opened after the holiday. They looked over the building and found that the foundations were slipping, the bricks in many cases were loose and breaking away. The buildings had been a source of trouble and anxiety for some time but there was no need for the alarming reports that had been spread - one that a portion of the school had fallen down and some

children had been injured. No injury had been done at all c22 09 06 Brunswick School building found to be slipping so pupils transferred to Fitzroy Street & Paradise Street schools [3.16]

1923

Malting House school opened [10.7]

1924

St Peter's School Castle End closed [2.5]

1925

Newnham Church of England and Occupation Road schools closed [2.15, 2.17]

1925 06 05

Cambridge council was told that the Brunswick school did not exist at the present time because the Borough surveyor drew attention to the giving way of the building, and they first of all had to pull down the Boys' School because it was dragging the other part down, and eventually they pulled down the Girls' School. The girls were in temporary premises at Paradise Street school and the boys in Fitzroy Street. They had to bear in mind that a new bridge was going to be built at Walnut Tree Avenue some time – (laughter) – and when that was done they would have to accommodate some children from old Chesterton 25 06 05

1926 11 01

The Mayor of Cambridge (Ald E.O. Brown) addressed the New Street Men's Bible Class, which was the outcome of the Ragged School. He took them back to the old school, before the new road to Sturton Street was made, and visualise the children that assembled outside. The teachers were devoted to their work. There were working parties where shirts were made for the boys and petticoats for the girls. Public houses were numerous, rows and fights were the order of the day. There were fighting men prepared to take on all comers, rat catchers, beer tasters. Those days had passed and gone, and they were benefiting from the seed that was sown by the devoted teachers many years ago 26 11 01

1927 11

Leys School new buildings opened [1.16]

1928

Park Street Higher Grade School closed [3.4]

1928

School of Arts, Crafts & Technology new wing opened [5.3]

1928 07

W.H.D. Rouse retires after 26 years as head of Perse School [1.18]

1928 07 09

Close to the windmill on the north side of Milton Road, opposite Chesterton Hall Crescent, occupying one of the highest and healthiest sites in the locality and surrounded by spacious lawns and trim walks stands the new open-air school for defective and sub-normal children. It is an ideal school, admirably adapted to its purpose and planned and equipped on a generous scale, a veritable children's paradise. The opening ceremony was an open-air function. Open air schools for delicate children have come to stay and in the future all schools will probably become open-air 28 07 09 [1.15]

1929

Began transforming Elementary Schools into Senior, Junior & Infants [1.9,5.4]

1929

Kings Street Girls & Infants closed [2.7]

1929 01 25

The Inspector of Schools said that in recent years there have been great improvements in Cambridge; they had got rid of such places as Sturton Street Infants and Occupation Road schools which were not fit to teach children in. Not only was it impossible for the teachers to give of their best but it was absolutely cruelty to children to make them go there. Occupation Road in particular was really insanitary. They had done exceedingly well in the reduction of the number of unwieldy classes; there are now 11 classes of over 50 children and 35 with from 40 to 50 29 01 25

1929 01 31

Mr Geoffrey Pyke of the Malting House School, Cambridge appeared at London Bankruptcy Court. He'd opened the school in October 1924 as a research school for children's education and never had any idea of making money out of it. He had expended £15,000 on it as against fees amounting to some £600. It was amply staffed and records were kept of the sayings and doings of the boys. That formed part of the research work and although the records were of scientific value they would fetch only ten shillings as waste paper. In fact he would not expect to receive a 'bean' for them from anybody who bought the school. 29 01 31

1929 07 12

Brunswick school reopening, 29 07 12 p8

## **1930**

1930 09 10

After considerable discussion it was agreed to purchase apparatus for artificial sunlight treatment at the Cambridge Open-Air School. Some felt it might be dangerous unless carefully used and children could be burned and blistered. But Dr Paton Philip, the County Tuberculosis Officer, is an expert in this treatment and a nurse had worked with the great specialist, Sir Henry Lovain. Most of the children went there not from any disability but because they had the suspicion of tuberculosis hanging over them 30 09 10a

1930 12 16

Miss M.H. Catley, headmistress of the Perse High School for Girls, took her degree at Oxford and came to Cambridge in 1926. She is with all her heart and all her desire, a trainer of girls. The keynote to her success is her understanding of youth – she is herself barely out of this category. She takes full part in sports and is an enthusiastic Girl Guide. There is still a long vista of years ahead of her and her success will be reaped when the young girls she is today training have themselves come to maturity. 30 12 16

1931

East Road becomes St George's Senior School [1.10]

1931 01 02

The sound of girls' voices, high and clear, punctuated the interview granted by Miss Dovey, headmistress of the County School for Girls. Cambridge born, she was educated at the Higher Grade School when Mrs Evans was the Principal. She took a degree at London University and was appointed headmistress in 1926. But the Girl Guides' concert meant we could not settle to our conversation and instead we watched part of a farce performed by some of the teachers who appeared in pyjamas, dressing gowns and sleeping caps, to the great delight of their pupils. 31 01 02d

1931 09 11

Many will mourn the loss of Miss Katharine Wilson, creator of the Chesterton Preparatory School. She had an amazing power of understanding children so that the most difficult little people became happy and tractable. Boys and girls of whatever nationality, whether Italian, Russian, American,

Estonian or English, from toddlers to twelve years old, all found themselves equally at home and grew into resourceful little citizens. 31 09 11b

1932

Union Road School closed [2.9]

1932

Sedley & Shirley Infants Schools opened - first with up-to-date nurseries for infants three to four years; Sedley design broke tradition, single-storied classrooms round open grassed courtyard [4.7, 4.8, 1.8, 10.10]

1932 01 13

The new domestic block at the Central Girls' School was formally opened. It includes a coal-fired Eagle range, electric and gas cookers, gas griller and iron heater. Cookery and dressmaking was a very important part of their teaching. Any girl who goes into domestic service with a good mistress has a ten times better chance than the girls who go into factories, the Mayoress said. 32 01 13

1932 06 22

The Prince of Wales landed in his red Puss Moth monoplane at Marshall's aerodrome. He jumped hatless from the plane, then donned a boater and drove to the Leys School where he opened the new squash courts and sports ground. On his return he was assisted into his raincoat in preparation for a lofty flight in search of a favourable wind before he stepped into his monoplane, soared gracefully aloft and headed for London. 32 06 22a

1932 12 16

Paston House School for girls, Cambridge, goes from strength to strength. The number of pupils is greater than ever and parents were satisfied with the work conducted under the care of the Sisters of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The school improved morals and character and a girl's soul receives that training which sets her on her way to face the problems of life with a firm grounding in the things that matter 32 12 16a

1933

Barnwell Abbey National School closed [2.12]

1933 03 21

St Luke's school overcrowding – 33 03 21a

1933 11 18

Perse school extension – 33 11 18

1934

St Faiths prep school established [12.8]

1934 11 17

Perse School extensions opened by Stanley Baldwin – 34 11 17b

1935 02 06

The new additions to the County School for Boys were opened by Lord Rutherford and many heads of colleges were amongst those present. The new wing includes a large Assembly Hall which will be used as a gymnasium, an art room and a classroom. Over the existing workshops another storey has been built, giving a new chemistry laboratory. The court outside will be turfed and if anybody feels disposed to offer a fountain then the County Council would pay the extra water rate for playing it on very special occasions. 35 02 06 & a

1935 02 20

It was time something was done about St Luke's School. The headmistress had a class of 54 in a large room divided only by a curtain from another class of 50. It was very trying for the teachers and not very satisfactory for the children. Putting another teacher into the room would not be much use. Romsey Council School also had large classes but to move one upstairs would be difficult: the natural lighting and ventilation was poor and there was insufficient head room. The head would prefer to have eight classes under normal conditions than take a class in an attic, councillors were told. 35 02 20b

1935 08 02

The foundation stone of the new Roman Catholic Schools in Union Road was laid by the Bishop of Northampton. Such schools were almost as important as churches. Catholics cannot be satisfied with a sort of elementary Christian faith: their children must be taught as soon as they are able to read and understand. Cambridge Catholics would have to make very considerable sacrifices: more than £8,000 would be required when the new schools were completed. 35 08 02

1935 10 25

The new Senior School off Gilbert Road, Chesterton contains separate departments for senior boys and girls, each with its own assembly hall fitted with a stage and cinema projection room. The boys department has science laboratory and woodwork and metalwork rooms while the girls' includes provision for cookery, laundry and dressmaking. A changing room, fitted with shower baths, has been included in connection with organised games. 35 10 25a - first of its kind with new facilities as libraries, practical work, halls etc [4.9,1.9]

1935 12 18

More than half the girls attending the Cambridge & County High School are above the average physique for their age and less than one per cent are poorly nourished. Nearly all the pupils are sensibly clothed and school uniform plays a useful part in this. Many take advantage of an excellent school dinner system and systematic training in a good gymnasium is open to all. Taking into account the intensive curriculum and the long distance many of the girls have to travel the results are very creditable, the Medical Officer reported. 35 12 18 & a

1936 07 09

County High School for Girls site agreed in Long Road 36 07 09a

1936 09 24

The opening and blessing of the new Roman Catholic Schools and Hall at Union Road, Cambridge, presented a picturesque spectacle of stately ceremonial. In the morning Archbishop Goodier preached following a Pontifical High Mass in the Church of Our Lady when the glory of mauve and splendour of gold vestments stood out vividly among the black cassocks and white surplices. The new buildings were opened and blessed in the afternoon whilst the Roswitha Players from London gave the first stage show at the new Houghton Hall in the evening. 36 09 24b 36 09 25a

1936 12 12

St George's school centenary – 36 12 12d & e

1937 11 05

Coleridge Senior School in Radegund Road was opened by the Mayor. It was not yet completely equipped – only half the gymnasium fittings were fixed and although they had a dining hall and kitchen the cooking arrangements were not complete. But the halls were fitted with cinema projection rooms, there were showers for pupils, and rooms for teaching cookery, laundry, housewifery and woodwork. The spread of population to the outlying parts of Cambridge had made it possible to provide new schools with plenty of land for playing fields. 37 11 05a [4.10,13.4]

1938

St Giles & New Street Schools closed [2.8, 3.19]

1938

Cherry Hinton National School building reconstructed [3.13]

1938

St Faiths school acquired Leys; was founded as prep school 1884 as result of Revised University Statutes 1878 which allowed Fellows to marry [12.7]

1938 10 28

The Cambridge & County Girls School started in 1900 in the Drill Hall, East Road, then known as the Technical Institute. By 1903 they overflowed into rooms belonging to the Zion Chapel Sunday School and it was not until 1909 that they moved to the present buildings, retiring headmistress, Miss Dovey said. But in August 1914, when war broke out, the school was taken possession of by the Welsh Fusiliers and other regiments. For a year the school was housed in Emmanuel College lecture rooms and St Andrew's Street Sunday School. Soon they would move to new premises in Long Road 38 10 28 & a

1939 08 18

Mr. Stanley Barker, of Orchard Road, Sawston holds the bronze medal, with six bars, awarded by the Cambs. County Council for unbroken attendance for seven successive years, 1904-10, at the same school, Sawston Board School. For a time, also the County Council awarded a silver watch for seven years' unbroken attendance, but by the time Stanley had qualified, the Council had raised the period to eight years, and he was not allowed to stay on for another year to qualify. Mr. Stanley Churchman, also of Sawston, holds the medal and the watch for the seven years' record - altogether, he attended Sawston Board School for eight years without being absent, two years at the Infants' School and the six years following at the Senior School. 39 08 18 CIPof

**1940**

1940 07 19

Boys from the Leys School, Cambridge have formed teams for seasonal work on the land. The July number of the 'Sugar Beet Review' has two pictures of them, taken on Mr. R. B. Taylor's farm, Ashley, near Newmarket, where the boys put in several days' work. About 50 boys were engaged on each occasion, with four or five masters, and more than 100 acres were singled. 40 07 19 CIPof

1940 08 09

More Farmers' Boys. - A party of 32 lads from the Central School Melbourn Place, Cambridge, arrived in Melbourn and commenced farm and orchard work where required. The lads are accompanied by the Headmaster, Mr. J. D. Livingstone, and take the place of the 30 lads from the Coleridge School, who returned home on Saturday after a fortnight's work in the orchards. After a fortnight in the village, the Central lads will leave, and their place will be taken by another party. The boys sleep in the infants' room of the Council School, and have their meals in the Church Room. 40 08 09 CIPof

1940 09 06

Leys School morning to Scotland as buildings needed by Addenbrooke's Hospital - 40 09 06a

1941 01 16

East Anglian town's miniature fire blitz. Famous public school [Perse] damaged 41 01 16, a,b,c Perse school treasures saved after fire destroyed library and classrooms. The shields which hung around the walls, the War Memorial and the portrait of Dr Rouse survived - 41 02 15a, 41 02 20b

1941 09 29

County High School for Girls new buildings opened - photo - 41 09 29

1945 01 26

Leys School return after 5 years evacuation in Pitlochry, Scotland [1.6]

1946 11 04

Miss M.H. Catley, headmistress of Perse for 20 years, resigns; numbers had increased from 284 to 486 – 46 11 04

1948 12 06

At Paston House school speech day the Headmistress, Mother Paul, gave a brief sketch of the development of the school during the past 50 years, for it was just half a century ago when it was founded. She referred with regret that so many applications for vacancies had to be refused as kindergarten places were filled up to 1951. The premises were still far from adequate, for an assembly hall, a permanent gymnasium, a studio and a library were all needed. The war did not dislocate the work of the school as much as might have been expected, but it roused special interest in nursing and first aid 48 12 06

1949

Fawcett School opened [3.9]

**1950**

1950

Trumpington School closed [3.8]

1950 02 11

Dr W.H.D. Rouse, headmaster of the Perse school, Cambridge, from 1902 to 1928 and one of the greatest teachers of his time died yesterday. His most famous work for education was his method of teaching Latin and Greek. Pupils acquired them by being taught in the language from their first lesson and by speaking in the language in class. He gathered round him a brilliant staff who shared his qualities of originality of mind and enthusiasm. Teachers from all over the world come to the Perse to see how those pioneer methods now followed in many schools were carried into effect 50 02 11

1951

Priory School opened [4.12, 10.1]

1951 07 09

Alderman Mrs C.D. Rackham opened the first instalment of the new Glebe school, Girton. When complete it will take 300 children from five to 11, as well as a group of “under-fives”. “We aim to have a nursery class in all our new junior schools where mothers will be able to leave their younger children until they reach the age of five”, she said; “we believe this facility an essential feature of our new schools”.

1951 10 15

A memorial service for the late Mr W.H. Balgarnie, former Classics Master at the Leys School, Cambridge, was held in the school chapel. He once had for a pupil the author James Hilton, who years afterwards drew upon his memories of Mr Balgarnie for his famous character “Mr Chips”. He joined the staff in 1900 as a Senior Classics Master, a position he held until he retired – for the first time – in July 1929. Almost immediately he was recalled to act as Deputy Headmaster for a year. Again he retired but when in 1940 the School moved to Pitlochry he came out of retirement and for five years was form master of the Classical Sixth. In July 1950 he left Cambridge for a summer holiday and never returned. He died on July 15<sup>th</sup>

1951 11 21

There is an air of excitement at the Perse School for Girls as their new hall is growing day-by-day in the school grounds to replace the ramshackled wooden building – two Army huts knocked into one – which has served the school since 1918. The Headmistress, Miss M.A. Scott says that many



responsible for the building have family connections. It will not only be a place for morning assembly and prayers but will be used for various lessons & for recreation during the dinner hour. The school is working hard to help pay for it and girls are doing all sorts of odd jobs, including running errands, baby sitting, darning socks and stockings, washing up and saving bus fares by walking to school.

1953 07 08

Chesterton and Coleridge schools may adopt a two-shift system operating from 8.30-1.30 and 1.30-6.30 pm as means of relieving difficulties arising from the large number on the school rolls with 553 boys and 450 girls at Chesterton and 562 boys and 540 girls at Coleridge. It would not adversely affect the character of the schools, as all pupils would have normal facilities for the use of laboratories and practical rooms. But there were social consequences which would create difficulties. The schools should make full use of hall and dining rooms for teaching purposes and hire additional accommodation.

1954 12 23

Saying farewell to Mr Henry Morris who is retiring from the post of Chief Education Officer after 34 years the County Council presented him with a portable typewriter and a filing cabinet. He had seen that modern transport which would otherwise transform the countryside into a widespread suburb and the rural hinterland into a cultural void, could be harnessed to create a rural region for the provision of educational and social amenities. He created the Village College as a rural community centre providing facilities for the countryman as good as those offered in towns. He had reinvigorated the school curriculum, improved the quality of teaching and established school gardens at Bottisham and Bassingbourn. CDN 23.12.1954

1955 10 07

Romsey School celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday; past and present scholars viewed photographs of bygone days and recalled events from the past. The head, Mr S.J. Granfield was joined by Mr S. Cannon who spoke of the first headmaster, George Flavill. Then the old boys gathered round the piano to sing 'Forty Years On' and other old songs he had taught them. 55 10 07b

1955 12 12

The new extensions to the Paston House School, now called St Mary's Convent School, in Bateman Street were dedicated, marking an important milestone in its 50 years' history. It began in one little house and now had 370 pupils. Speaking of the value of independent convent schools the Bishop spoke of 'the unfriendliness of Mr Butler, who won't let us build schools as we should like to'. But the religious orders managed to carry on and there was something about convent schools that make parent want to send their pupils, although there were good, efficient and free, schools elsewhere 55 12 12 & 12a

1957 04 02

Television sets are to be installed at Chesterton Secondary Modern School in an experiment to assess the value of this type of visual aid. In the years to come they may be as common as radios. However Coun Gardner-Smith claimed children spent a lot of time watching television: "Is it any wonder they are illiterate. This is simply another way of wasting time". 57 04 02a

1957 06 29

J.D. Livingstone retires as head of Central School – 57 06 29

1957 10 31

St Andrew's Catholic School was established 111 years ago and was the only Catholic school in the whole of Cambridgeshire. They had been in their new building for 21 years but now a new school would be built in the Birdwood Road area to accommodate more than 300 pupils and the existing premises would become a primary school. During the war it had housed 50 evacuated people: they slept on the stage and the balcony but the school carried on. They were shut only two days, for police reasons. 57 10 31

1957 11 23

Central High School new buildings Queen Edith's Way open – to be renamed Central Grammar School 57 11 23

1958 01 23

Dr W.G. Humphrey, who has been Headmaster of the Leys School since 1934, has resigned. He feels to continue on until the normal retiring age would be too long for any Headmaster to stay at one school. On three previous occasions he has told the Governors of his feelings, but on each occasion they persuaded him to reconsider. Now he will work for Fisons. 58 01 23

1958 02 12

The Central School was founded in 1873; it became the Central Technical School in 1953, a Grammar and Technical School in 1954 and a full Grammar School in 1956. Now that the Boys' School was moving to new premises the Girls' School would develop and expand with a new library, laboratories and classrooms for specialised subjects. Miss Irvine was retiring as Headmistress after 24 years. 58 02 12

1958 03 29

Perse School plans, Hills Road – 58 03 29b & c

1958 06 11

Netherhall School, the first new secondary school in Cambridge since the war, was officially opened by Lord McNair. The smaller the class, the more effective the teaching and they should do all they could to reduce sizes, he said. The 300 children under the headmaster (Mr Holden) and the same number under the headmistress, Miss Wilkinson, was correct. They should cut time spent on administration and teach as much as possible. In this way they could consolidate the staff. 58 06 20a

1958 06 11

St Matthew's Junior Mixed School to close – 58 06 11b

1958 08 01

St Faith's School has a new swimming pool built by voluntary labour. The Headmaster, Mr F.M. White, says it only cost £280. They were encouraged by the success of a small primary school in Huntingdonshire which was funded by their Parent-Teach organisation three years before. The basic requirements are an enthusiastic staff, an able school handy-man and above all the technical advice of an enthusiastic expert. He must remain nameless, otherwise he'd be inundated with similar requests. 58 08 01a

1958 09 24

Miss Mary Cattley was Headmistress of the Perse School for Girls from 1926-1947. She introduced the house system, saw the building of the new school block in 1930, the establishment of the games field and the river bathing place which was acquired in 1934. During the war the school welcomed refugee girls from Europe, many of whom have married and settled down in Cambridge. 58 09 24

1958 10 07

County Boys school new wing – 58 10 07

1958 10 08

Coleridge Girls' School celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary; the girls were now much more lively, efficient and adaptable than those of 21 years ago headmistress Miss D.M. Howlett said. Then there had been no playing field and the school children had worn far too many clothes. Boredom was the main cause of juvenile crime so they had instituted leisure time work for the girls evacuated from Islington during the war years. The idea had been that children in modern schools were only intelligent enough to read

picture books but in both academic and practical work Coleridge was achieving good results. 58 10 08a

1958 10 11

New extensions at Cambridgeshire High School for Boys were something of a landmark in its history. The physics laboratories, medical room and gymnasium with its internal jumping pit in the floor were long overdue but the post-war years have been marked by shortages of every kind. They were part of a larger scheme but it would be rash to suggest what the next stage would be. The last major improvements had taken place in 1938 when the hall was opened together with the art room and chemistry laboratory. 58 10 11

1958 10 31

St Mary's Convent School started in Park Terrace in 1898 and during the 1914-18 war many Belgian refugees were taught there. Since then its story has been one of cultural progress made possible by the generosity of nuns, teachers and parents. Last year 21 pupils received a needlework certificate and many girls had gone in for nursing and the various therapies. 58 10 31

1959 04 09

Perse school new roof – 59 04 09

1959 04 28

Grammar School for Boys opened [1.25] 59 04 28 & a

1959 07 23

St Barnabas Church of England school closed after 71 years [13.3]

1959 09 23

The Headmaster of Fawcett Junior School, Trumpington (Mr F.N. Walker) declared the school's new swimming pool was "well and truly open" after he had been pushed fully dressed into the water. Roars of laughter came from the Mayor (Wallace Cole), Mayoress and parents who were present but the Head took his ducking in good part and swam vigorously for half a length. The pool has been built by the parents with the help of the children themselves. 59 09 23

1959 11 21

Grammar School for Girls first speech day – 59 11 21

1959 12 16

Miss W.M. Farnsworth, headmistress of Chesterton Girls' School is retiring. She has been in charge since the school opened in 1935. It was the first of its kind to be opened in Cambridge as a result of the Hadow report of 1926 which recommended special provision for all children over 11 years. Previously it was thought that children not at grammar schools must be taught to be practical and develop handicraft skills rather than developing academic intelligence. She says schoolgirls are now taller, healthier, more graceful and beautiful than they used to be, as a result of anti-natal care and welfare services or increased facilities for physical education. 58 12 16 & a

***1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date***

1960 03 23

Perse new school film 60 03 23a

1960 04 12

The Leys School, having passed through the stages of war-time requisition and evacuation and the post-war restrictions on building, is now undertaking a large programme of building expansion. Extra science laboratories have been built and the kitchens, gymnasium and the swimming baths modernised. Now West House is to be completely re-accommodated in a new modern building on the

edge of the playing fields overlooking Coe Fen. Builders lorries are passing in and out of the gates with busy regularity. Self-contained as it is – with its own chapel and theatre and even its own water supply – it arouses the curiosity of passers by. 60 04 12a

1960 06 03

Islip House Preparatory School in Huntingdon Road is one of those good things in independent education which, after many years of unobtrusive excellence, will have to fade away under the onslaught of modern financial difficulties. Miss Mildred Turner, its Principal, is taking no more new pupils. The nine she teaches at the moment will be taken to the point where they are reader to enter the Perse or another Grammar School, but will be the last pupils that Islip House will ever have. 60 06 03b

1960 06 24

The small independent Kimway School is to close when the twin sisters, the Misses M.L. and E.A. Macleod retire. They have run the school in Millington Road since 1941 on the ideas proved successful with Brownie packs and 621 pupils have passed through their hands. The children range from three to 11 years and stay to take their 11-plus or try for scholarships to the Perse. Recently the number of children from university families has dwindled and now the wooden part of the school premises has rotted and the cost of heating and repairs is becoming increasingly expensive. 60 06 24c [8.8.]

1960 12 08

Annie Dovey, Headmistress of Cambridge & County High School for Girls 1926-1938 – 60 12 08

1961 05 02

The Lady Adrian special school in Courtney Way had taken a long time because children who found it difficult to learn did not arouse as much sympathy with the public as those who were either deaf or blind. But they needed this type of school to provide educational facilities where their self-confidence could be built up, Lady Hester Adrian said as she officially opened the building 61 05 02 [7.9,10.8]

1961 06 05

The Queen Mother opened the new Erasmus Building at Queens' College designed by Sir Basil Spence and West House, a new block of classrooms and living accommodation at the Leys School. By joining it on to the existing range of squash and fives courts opened by the Prince of Wales in 1932 it has created an attractive court with a fine view of Coe Fen and the River Cam. Now all boys can move into a study after two years in the common room. There is a penthouse for two bachelor masters which could provide accommodation for nursing staff in the event of an epidemic. 61 06 05 & a, 61 06 06 & a & [8.13]

1961 06 29

The Manor Secondary Schools in Arbury Road were officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University. The new buildings are designed to accommodate 450 boys and 450 girls in two separate departments linked by shared dining facilities and with a single boiler house. The Boy's Department opened in September 1959 and was shared by the girls until theirs became available in September 1960. It is the third secondary school project to be completed in Cambridge since the war 61 06 29a [13.6]

1961 07 03

The new Perse School building at Hills Road was opened by Princess Alexandra of Kent. The new large assembly hall was filled to capacity, guests overflowing into a large marquee. The old buildings in Gonville Place, dating from 1890, had proved inadequate for a rapidly-growing school and here, on the extensive playing fields was a noble site beyond the noise and traffic of the city. It includes the Mummery miniature theatre, a biology laboratory with its own pool for the growing of specimens and a special room for school prefects. 61 07 03 & a & b

1962 01 02

The school population in Cambridge has increased by 80 per cent since 1939. Council houses have been built in large numbers leading to a movement of population into new estates and new schools could not be provided in time. Serious overcrowding of infants classes reached a peak in 1953 and spread on to secondary schools in 1957. Over-large classes have been unavoidable and children are taught in halls, dining rooms and even store rooms. 62 01 02 & a

1962 02 21

St Bede's Roman Catholic Secondary School in Birdwood Road was formally opened by the Bishop of Northampton. It is a co-educational school for 300 pupils with eight classrooms and a library, together with craft, woodwork and housecraft rooms and laboratories. There is a combined hall and gymnasium together with a kitchen and dining hall which can be used for teaching space. The facilities are excellent in every direction. The school was opened to pupils after Easter. 62 07 20b

1962 01 03

St Andrews Roman Catholic School renamed St Albans, founded 1843 [13.3]

1962 02 21

Grove primary school named –were two oak tree groves near school 62 02 21a

1962 06 29

Advisory Centre for Education comes to Cambridge: help parents with educational problems

1962 06 30

Mayfield Primary school opened [10.6]

1962 07 20

St Bede's School opened [2.1]

1962 07 31

St George's Church of England Secondary School opened in 1835 with separate departments for senior boys and girls. For 100 years it was called East Road School until the infants section closed in 1931. Pupils will attend other secondary schools until new premises are built on a site in St George's parish. The old school will be rebuilt to house the St Matthew's Infants School 63 07 31a [12.6]

1963 06 18

Opening the new Mayfield Primary School, Mrs C.D. Rackham said many things had changed since the first council school in Cambridge was opened in 1905 in Romsey Town. It has its own library – youngsters are voracious readers, a unit for partially deaf children which allays their fear by allowing them to mix with others and join in school life, and a swimming pool. This helped children gain confidence besides being fun. It is a change from the old idea of 'chalk and talk' 63 06 18a

1964 02 29

St Luke's church schools in Victoria Road are outdated and almost sub-standard. However since 1962, when children were shivering in classes, electric heating has been installed to take the load off the open fires. The school is fifth on the list for rebuilding within the next four years, but may slip down the list. Until a new one is built parents will have to remain dissatisfied with the accommodation. The council is not rejuvenating the decaying areas of the city but concentrating on new ones. 64 02 29a

1964 04 24

City vote to end 11+ [17.2]

1964 11 28

Cambridge's Old Church Schools date back to 1700 when school for poor children were started by clergy. After the Education Act of 1870 introduced compulsory education Newnham School was opened in 1872 and followed in 1875 by Park Street for girls and infants. St Barnabas, Sturton Street, York Street, Catharine Street & Ross Street schools followed. St Matthews is the newest – and the most modern of all schools in Cambridge - 64 11 28

1964 12 28

The second phase of new Church of England school being built in Flower Street will be finished in September. The first involved the building of two classrooms and a hall, the second another two classes, kitchen and staff accommodation. Another hall and more classrooms will follow. The school was formerly St George's Secondary School for 150 pupils aged 11-15. In July it adapted to a new age range and became St Matthew's Primary School. A two-storey building of the old school has been demolished and the school is being adapted to suit the needs of primary education. 64 12 28a

1965 03 11

County short of teachers - quotas full [17.3]

1965 04 07

City's non-selective scheme [17.4]

1966

Coleridge first to be converted co-educational & named Coleridge secondary mixed school [NS.1.1]

1966 04 25

New nursery school opened in Station Road by Cambridge Association for Advancement of State Education – 66 04 25

1966 04 28

Grove Primary School, Campkin Road opened; Lady Bragg reminisces – 66 04 28a

1967 06 19

Leys School extensions opened – 67 06 19

1967 06 21

County comprehensive schools may have to await city plan [17.6]

1967 07 12

King's Hedges Infants' school delay increases costs; dispute over blame – 67 07 12

1967 12 01

City move abolish 11+ in favour three-tier system defeated city council [17.7]

1968 10 09

St Laurence's Roman Catholic School opening – 69 10 09

1968 10 28

King's Hedges School, built two years ago, needs major structural alterations – 68 10 28; two schools to be re-roofed – 68 11 27

1969 04 21

Stanley Stubbs retires as head of Perse – profile – 69 04 21

1969 07 19

St Luke's Church of England Primary School official opening – 69 07 19

## 1970

1970 04 31

St Faith's School new hall opened – 70 04 31

1970 07 10

Hope Tebbutt started first nursery school in Cambridge 45 years ago, Stagsholt Nursery School Gresham Road for poorer areas; was 15 years before another – 70 07 10

1971 02 19

Comprehensive plans unveiled, city favour scheme, cheers as committee back scheme [17.10, 17.11]

1971 05 25

St Luke's school demolished [7.15]

1971 07 01

Grammar School for Boys centenary, established 1871 Jesus Lane Sunday School Paradise Street, 1913 moved Melbourne Place 1958 Queen Edith's Way [9.2]

1971 07 29

City Council reject plans for comprehensive education which would have ended 11-plus – 71 07 29

1971 08 06

Chesterton County Secondary Schools for Boys & Girls close, Chesterton County Secondary School opens [9.4]

1972 07 06

Chesterton Preparatory School closes, opened 1910 [9.3]

1973 02 13

Grammar School for Girls celebrates centenary, opened as Higher grade Girls School 1873, became Girls Grammar School 1958 [9.1]

1973 03 13

Byron House School, independent Pre-Prep merges St Johns College School, founded London; came to Cambridge in 1939 as evacuation [9.6]

1973 11 08

Some of the Cambridge school buildings which have to be altered to turn them into comprehensives may not be ready by the time the new system starts in September 1974. Alterations costing more than £100,000 are being held up because builders, who have a lot of work on their hands and face an acute labour shortage, are unwilling to undertake any more City council contracts. Worried council officials had to approach 13 building firms before they could find anybody willing to undertake a £4,000 classroom building job at the Coleridge secondary school

1973 11 29

Parkside becomes first community college when comprehensive system starts September, based on Grammar School for Girls [8.2]

1974 07 27

St Luke's school centenary [12.4]

1974 12 13

Cambridgeshire High School Girls & Boys become Long Rd & Hills Rd VI form colleges [8.9]

1976 05 14

Sancton Wood private school started 5 years ago, small unit mentally handicapped children [10.11]

1976 07 14

St Edmunds prep school (founded 1934) leaves Cambridge after losing accommodation [12.8]

1976 09 16

Kings College School takes girls [8.7]

1976 10 05

Proposals for restructuring 16-plus education [15,18.1]

1977 07 01

Cranmer nursery school, oldest in Cambridge, closes after at least 53 years, was founded by Susan Isaacs [14.1]

1978 01 07

Advisory Centre for Education moves back to Bethnel Green [7.2]

1978 02 14

A County Council report recommends that two old church schools in the centre of Cambridge, Park Street and St Matthew's, should close. It says no school will take more than 60 infants a year; all schools will have nursery classes from three-plus, and that separate infants and junior schools will be merged into one school taking children right up to 11. Catchment zones will be introduced for primary schools. At present Morley Memorial is under a great deal of pressure and children are taught in a rented church hall across a busy road while Sedley Infants and Romsey Junior have empty places. 78 02 14

1978 03 09

Report says "too many primary places by 1980, threatens Brunswick & Park St schools [8.3-4]

1978 03 09

Both St Matthews and Park Street schools in Cambridge are housed in high-ceilinged, drab buildings. There are no green playing fields, the playgrounds are cramped and asphalted and Park Street has outside lavatories. But for all this they inspire a great deal of loyalty from parents who see them as small family schools within a community. Both are in the central area and a few years ago found their rolls were dropping. But now there is a definite trend bringing young families back into the city centre terraced houses and they are battling to save the schools from closure. 78 03 09

1978 07 15

St Matthews school threatened with closure (but expanded to take Brunswick 1980) [12.2]

1978 08 30

Protestors against the proposed closure of Park Street School Cambridge stepped up their campaign by marching on the Guildhall. The television commentator and personality, Clive James, who is leading the fight said: "There will be no financial gain from closing the school. The main reason for shutting it seems to be the size of the playground which they say is insufficient for the kids to fulfil themselves". Park Street Residents Association has joined the campaign as they feel much of the community spirit of the area will be lost if the plans go ahead. c78 09 29

1979

Government stop Park Street closure but Brunswick converts to Further Education College

1979 07 06



Cherry Hinton Community School opened [9.5]

1979 10 19

Two more schools threatened with closure [8.4]

## **1980**

1980 06 28

Foundation new St Andrew's new school Nuffield Rd laid 1980, old closed 1981 [11.3]

1980 07 25

St Matthews school which was threatened with closure expanded to take Brunswick [12.2]

1981 01 17

The Perse School for Girls celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a mammoth birthday cake made by the school cooks. It was left to the youngest pupil, Amanda Higgins, to blow out the candles. Head girl, Rachel Bendall presided over the cutting while the headmistress, Miss Mary Rose Bateman, help with the serving to each of the 701 pupils and staff. Later there was of a film depicting its history and a thanksgiving service. 81 01 17

1981 03 04

The old St Paul's school, designed by Ambrose Poynter, a pupil of the Regency architect John Nash, is destined for demolition. It dates from 1845 and is Cambridge's earliest elementary school. Last year pupils moved into new buildings close by and now the Education Department is seeking to demolish it and use the site for a playground. Old stones showing the former name, the National School' and the boys and girls' entrances will be put into the new building 81 03 04

1981 07 24

Arbury Junior Silver Jubilee [9.8]

1982 01 29

When the Queen Mother opened St Paul's Church of England Primary School, Cambridge, she went from class to class, looking over the shoulders of the children as they continued their work. Three infant classes showed her their Captain Cook project, their dressing-up clothes, demonstrated how a canon works and gave an impromptu music lesson. Some were too busy to talk; one hurried busily up to the teacher with a problem: "I have to do his braces for the loo", she told the Queen Mother. "Oh that's much more important", she replied. 82 01 29a old Nash building dated from 1845 & earliest elementary school; by 1985 waiting list full [11.4]

1982 02 16

Brunswick School started as a British School in Eden Walk; it moved to Auckland Road about 1900 but had to move again to Walnut Tree Avenue when the buildings began sliding gently down to the river. Now falling rolls and cash cutbacks means it will close and the site used for further education premises. Teacher Miss Marjorie Battersbee attended as a girl and has taught there her entire career. Many of the 92 children will go to St Matthew's. 82 02 16a

1982 03 12

The Headmaster of Cambridge Manor School was forced to close his school at lunchtime after pupils went on the rampage. Children set fire to rubbish at the back of a building, smashed a door and set off a fire alarm. The trouble came on the first day of a teachers' work-to-rule which cut mealtime supervision to a minimum leaving the head with only four elderly dinner ladies for help. 83 03 12

1982 06 12

When the Duchess of Gloucester officially opened St Andrew's Community Junior School at Chesterton she picked eight-year-old Wendy Braybrook to help her pull the cord to unveil a plaque.

Then she was presented with a posy from Lorraine Clark and a book of pupils' work by Brian Hall before being escorted round the building by headmaster Derek Nightingale. Pye provided video equipment to record the visit that was watched by people on close circuit television 82 06 12. Old opened 1844 need rebuild by 1967; "no hope for new school" 1975

1982 06 19

Cambridge was today stunned by a fire which gutted most of the Grove Infants' School, Arbury, and destroyed the staff block at the Manor School. Hundreds of people were woken in the early hours by the sound of the buildings being ripped apart by flames and small explosions. They went out on the streets and watched as firemen fought to control the blaze. Many wept openly. 82 06 19 & a

1982 06 30

Renovation work on St Matthew's Primary School has transformed the area. The original school dates from 1835 but part was demolished in the 1960s. Now it has been refurbished with open plan classrooms with internal courtyards built on the original playground. Before rebuilding it catered for 180 children, now there are 370. 82 06 30

1982 08 26

Preservationists have won a long fight to stop the old St Paul's School buildings in Russell Street from being demolished. They are the oldest primary school buildings in Cambridge, designed by Ambrose Poynter, a pupil of the great Regency architect, John Nash. They have not been used since the new school was opened a year ago. 82 08 26

1983 07 05

Secondary Review Working Party says a major comprehensive to close "are 850 spare places but will be 1,500 by 1991" [8.5, 13.6]

1983 12 22

The Manor Comprehensive School in Cambridge – threatened with closure – has now been offered a reprieve. Conservative councillors have bowed to intense public pressure and thought of a new plan to keep the school open. It is to reduce the number of new entrants to 120 pupils a year and hand over the remaining buildings to the Cambridge College of Further Education. When plans to close the school because of falling numbers were announced by the News, a massive protest from parents and politicians swept Cambridge. But the problem of falling secondary pupil numbers will not go away and must be solved somehow 83 12 22 p1

1984 02 29

Manor comprehensive school has been saved from threatened closure, though it will in future take only 120 youngsters a year and the county council will keep a close watch on its numbers. But councillors decided by just two votes to close Lode school and transfer the children to Bottisham, even though that school did not want them. The infants' school at Fulbourn will also be shut down and the buildings put to good use – perhaps as a teachers' centre 84 02 29 p3

1984 05

St Phillips community primary school, to replace St Phillips Junior & Infants; old school demolished 85 11 15 [12.1]

1984 06 01

Falling numbers of pupils have forced the Shrubbery School to close its doors to senior pupils. However juniors up to 11 years old will still be able to attend the private school which charges £250 a term. The Shrubbery opened its doors in Hills Road before moving to Barton Road 37 years ago and has been run by Alfred Wainwright and his wife since 1962 84 06 01 p9 charges £280 term, to demolished 1986 [10.9]

1984 06 21

St Mary's Convent School is to drop the word convent but it will not become any less Catholic in character. The nuns of the order of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which founded the school, will now draw salaries but the money will go to the convent on the same site. Sister Christina, the school's present headmistress, will remain in post at the 600-pupil school, which has always welcomed girls from other Christian denominations 84 06 21 p20

1984 07 18

The Leys School is admitting girls to its sixth form for the first time this autumn. Amongst the first will be Julia Fairey from Linton and Helen Sherwood who is head girl at Soham Village College. Not all the boys are enthusiastic about their arrival and others are jealous of the shiny newness of their accommodation in a special boarding house with attractive study bedrooms. The girls will live in a semi-protected environment without the freedom of a sixth form college but in a more liberal atmosphere than the usual girls' boarding school. They will not be allowed out on weekday evenings without special permission 84 07 18

1985 10 14

Parents registering children at birth for places in certain schools [12.2]

1985 07 05

Police are investigating a massive fire which ripped through the Perse School for Girls in the early hours of the morning. Two laboratories were gutted and the rest of the building was severely smoke damaged. Today the school was closed. Many of the 540 pupils arriving for classes were unaware of the fire and were sent home. Headmistress Miss Mary Bateman said it was a serious nuisance but not a tragedy and hopefully the school would reopen on Monday 85 07 05

1985 07 15

Pupils at Grove School in Arbury have celebrated the opening of their primary school – just days before the summer holidays start. Two classrooms and other buildings lost in a blaze on the site two years ago have been replaced. The school now has a bigger hall, new changing rooms, kitchen, library and administration and staff rooms. One of the new classrooms will be used as a unit for visually impaired children. A second stage in the rebuilding work will see the erection of a unit for physically handicapped children 85 07 15

1985 10 10

Chesterton Community College is celebrating its Golden Jubilee with a book of anecdotes. Old boy Chris Morton remembers headmaster R.C. Brown. "We used to call him 'The Major'. He used to have this habit of picking you up by the ear. He was a real gentleman. He would give you the cane and you used to feel he was being military about it". Rex Freeman was one of the favourite teachers and could bring the best out of anyone. He taught English and history, later music and remedial classes 85 10 10 & a

1985 12 10

Morley Memorial Primary School has been waiting for improvements since the beginning of the Second World War. It suffers from leaking roofs and a totally inadequate school hall. Now parents fear that the County Council plans to sell property at 100 Blinco Grove for building development. It is densely populated area with virtually no playing space and the school uses the grounds for infants' sports, nature trails and other functions. Parents hope to form an action committee to oppose the suggestion. 85 12 10

1986 03 17

St Bede's school threatened with closure due falling rolls, suggested merger with Coleridge but saved by turnaround by councillors 1986 [2.2, 7.10, 13.2]

1986 05 06

Proposed super college replacing Hills Road, Long Road & CCFE [11.5] [8.6]

1986 06 19

When St Philip's School opened in Catharine Street in 1886 it had 127 pupils on the roll. But as railway workers moved into new homes in the area only boys up to seven and girls up to 14 were allowed to attend. A senior boys' school was built in Ross Street in 1894 and a new community primary school opened in Vinery Way in 1983. Now children have been preparing to celebrate its centenary with a reunion, a concert in St Philip's Church and a Punch and Judy show by former pupil Chris Kostecki . 86 06 19b

1986 08 11

Newnham VI form centre, private school, opens in former Shrubbery School buildings [10.2]

1986 10 15

Newnham Croft school to be rebuilt on different site after protest; old part built 1915 became dilapidated, dining hall demolished 1982 [10.3]

1986 12 12

Milton Road Infants is one of eight Cambridgeshire schools linked through a modem to an electronic mail system, the 'Times Network System'. Using word processors the children begin a story which is then finished by children at the Beeches School in Peterborough where 70 per cent of the pupils are Pakistani. They are also hoping to link up with Newcastle and America or a kibbutz in Israel. If teachers use the links imaginatively the pioneering new project will prove its worth. 86 12 12 & a

1987 03 13

St Catharine's preparatory school starts due phasing out of St Mary's school junior classes [13.1]

1987 04 10

Secretary of State endorse decision to close Roger Ascham school, only unit for physically handicapped; Open Air school opened 1916, 1928 opened present site; for TB which virtually eliminated by modern drugs [11.2]

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1987 09 07

Cherry Hinton new primary school opens ¢CEN 7.9.89

1987 09 11

For over 60 years the Roger Ascham School served the needs of children. In the early days there were 120 pupils some with physical ailments. Others, kept rigidly separate, were backward and retarded. In recent years it was a vigorous, innovative school mainly for the physically multi-handicapped. The largest group were cerebral palsied children followed by spina bifida and a small number of those with muscular dystrophy and the emotionally fragile. It built a reputation for catering for the bright and more slow-learning pupil so they could succeed beyond expectations in spite of their physical disabilities. 87 09 11

1987 12 02

Secondary school shake-up rejected ¢CEN 2.12.87 1989

1988 02 04

Education Secretary Kenneth Baker has given permission to turn St Bede's Roman Catholic School into a new inter-church school, one of only five in the country. It marks the final triumphant move in a turbulent chapter which almost ended with the secondary school being closed down after a drop in the number of pupils. It was reprieved following a determined battle by parents and teachers. Now headmistress Sister Dolores looks forward to an exciting future as a Christian secondary school for up

to 600 Anglican and Roman Catholic children drawn from places as far apart as Littleport and St Neots 88 02 04

1988 02 24

Parkside Community College has been fighting officialdom since it opened 75 years ago. In 1913 the school faced the might of the British class system when many saw no reason why working class children should be educated 'above their station'. At the opening even the Mayor expressed doubts and a writer to the CDN urged that children of the working classes should be taught just the three Rs since roadsweepers, farm labourers and domestic servants would always be needed. Those who wished it could learn a trade later. Now it is celebrating its achievements. 88 02 24a

1988 10 17

The Perse School for Girls has opened a new science and crafts building at a cost of almost £1 million. The four-storey block, to be used by over 600 girls, was opened by eminent scientist Dame Rosemary Murray, the first woman vice-chancellor of Cambridge University. It has facilities for the teaching of electronics, computing, design technology and photography and includes the Maddocks physics laboratory, named after a former pupil who made a major donation to the fund. 88 10 17

1989 02 21

Kings Hedges Infants and Junior Schools in Cameron Road may need to be knocked down and completely rebuilt. The schools, which celebrate their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday this year, have fallen into a state of 'disgraceful neglect', Governors claim. The roofs leak, the windows are loose, there is no paint on the outside. It will be cheaper to demolish them rather than undertake repairs. 89 02 21

1990 03 12

W.P. (Freddie) Kingdon, who was headmaster at Coleridge Boys School from 1947 to 1966 still attends school regularly – only now as a pupil at art classes. He joined as a teacher of PE in 1936 before becoming head in 1947. During the war he was put in charge of the 'Ringleaders' – the naughtiest boys. This was made easier as corporal punishment was still in use and he always allowed the boy to decide how many times they were caned. Later he organised courses for pupils who had to stay an extra year when leaving age was raised from 15 to 16 in 1966. He ran courses on drugs, drink and addiction and organised the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – 90 03 12b

1990 05 17

Spinney School Cherry Hinton official opening – 90 05 17a

1990 06 14

St Luke's school, French's Road opened in 1874, closed in 1969 when new school constructed – feature – 90 06 14a